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Fax No.: 571-273-8300 Voice No.:

Dock. #: ITW 14417.70

Title: Method and Apparatus For Feeding Wire to a Welding Arc

Ser. #: 10/728629

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PATENT**Attorney's Docket No. ITW 14417.70****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of : Huismann et al.

Application No.: 10/728629

Group Art Unit: 3742

Filed: December 5, 2003

For: Method and Apparatus For Feeding Wire to a Welding Arc

Mail Stop Amendment**Commissioner for Patents**

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR****BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION (37 CFR 1.97(b))**

Note: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed: (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application; (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last." 37 CFR 1.97(b).

NOTE: The "filing date of a national application" under 37 CFR 1.97(b) has two possible meanings. Where the filing is direct one to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, the filing is defined in 37 CFR 1.53(b) as "the date on which: (1) A specification containing a description pursuant to 1.71 and at least one claim pursuant to 1.75; and (2) any drawing required by 1.81(a), are filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in the name of the actual inventor or inventors as required by 1.41." 37 CFR 1.97(b)(1). On the other hand, an international application that enters the national stage occurs when the applicant has filed the documents and fees required by 35 U.S.C. 371(c) within the periods set forth in 1.491 or 1.494. 35 U.S.C. 371(c) requires the filing of the following: (1) the national fee; (2) a copy of the international application, unless already sent by the International Bureau, and an English translation if filed in another language; (3) amendments under PCT Article 19, with a translation into English if made in another language; (4) an oath or declaration; and (5) a translation into English of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language. 37 CFR 1.97(b)(2).

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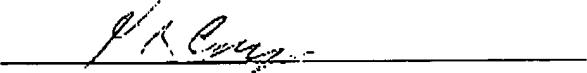
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**IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. 37 CFR 1.97(b).

- NOTE:** "No certification or fee is due when the filing is made within the above time period. It is advisable to ensure that no Office action has been mailed if the disclosure statement is delayed until after three months from filing."
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- NOTE:** "The term 'national application' includes continuing application (continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part) so three-months will be measured from the actual filing date of an application as opposed [sic] to the effective date of a continuing application." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).
- NOTE:** "An action on the merits means an action which treats the patentability of the claims in an application, as opposed to only formal or procedural requirements. An action on the merits would, for example, contain a rejection or indication of allowability of a claim or claims rather than just a restriction requirements (37 CFR 1.142) or just a requirement for additional fees to have a claim considered (37 CFR 1.16(d)). Thus, if an application was filed on Jan. 1 and the first Office action on the merits was not mailed until six months later on July 1, the examiner would be required to consider any proper information disclosure statement filed prior to July 1." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).
- WARNING:** "A petition for suspension of action to allow applicant time to submit an information disclosure statement will be denied as failing to present good and sufficient reasons, since 37 CFR 1.97 provides adequate recourse of the timely submission of prior art for consideration by the examiner." Notice of July 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63).



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Sheet 1 of 1.

Form PTO-1449	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent And Trademark Office	ATTY. DOCKET NO. ITW 14417.70	SERIAL NO. 10/728629
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION		APPLICANT Huismann et al.	
		FILING DATE December 5, 2003	GROUP 3742

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pages, Etc.)

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